

(19)



Europäisches Patentamt
European Patent Office
Office européen des brevets



(11)

EP 1 209 849 A2

(12)

EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

(43) Date of publication:
29.05.2002 Bulletin 2002/22

(51) Int Cl.7: H04L 12/18

(21) Application number: 01308861.2

(22) Date of filing: 18.10.2001

(84) Designated Contracting States:
AT BE CH CY DE DK ES FI FR GB GR IE IT LI LU
MC NL PT SE TR
Designated Extension States:
AL LT LV MK RO SI

(72) Inventors:
• Colson, James, c/o IBM United Kingdom Ltd.
Winchester, Hampshire SO21 2JN (GB)
• Eagle, Brian Lee White, IBM United Kingdom Ltd.
Winchester, Hampshire SO21 2JN (GB)

(30) Priority: 19.10.2000 US 690460

(71) Applicant: International Business Machines
Corporation
Armonk, NY 10504 (US)

(74) Representative: Richards, John Peter
IBM United Kingdom Limited
Intellectual Property Department
Hursley Park
Winchester Hampshire SO21 2JN (GB)

(54) Apparatus for persistent chat sessions

(57) Method, system, apparatus, and computer program product are presented for providing persistent chat sessions. A user may select a user identifier of another user who is not a participant in the chat session and then request to invite the non-participant to join the chat session. A chat application then retrieves a chat session context for the chat session and places the chat session context into the chat session invitation. The invitation is then sent to the non-participant, who may review the chat session context in order to decide whether or not to join the chat session after reviewing the chat session context.

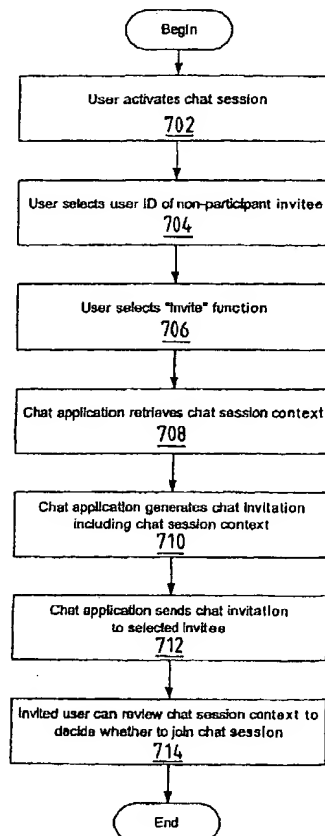


FIG. 7

EP 1 209 849 A2